

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION DLOS-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 L-02 IO-03 COA-01 SCI-03

CG-00 DOTE-00 AF-04 EA-13 EUR-10 NEA-06 CEQ-1 CIEP-03

EPA-01 NSF-01 OIC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INT-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 COME-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 EB-03 DODE-00 ACDA-10 /115 W

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O R 151804Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5346

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

S E C R E T CARACAS 7871

LIMDIS

FROM USDEL LOS

PASS INGERSOLL, MAW, MCINTYRE (D/LOS) WEISS AND KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS ARCHIPELAGO CLAIMS

1. U.S. REP MOORE HAS HAD SEVERAL RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GEORGE STEWART OF BAHAMAS LOS DEL CONCERNING BAHAMAS ARCHIPELAGO CLAIM IN EFFORT TO GET FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF BAHAMAS CLAIM. CONVERSATIONS PARTICULARLY CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. IN LATEST CONVERSATION STEWART INDICATED BAHAMAS SOUGHT AN ARCHIPELAGO WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL ISLANDS EXCEPT SAY CAL GROUP AND WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL OF GRAND BAHAMAS BANK. HE INDICATED THAT IF THIS EXTENT OF COVERAGE COULD BE ACHIEVED HE

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THOUGHT BAHAMAS WOULD BE PREPARED TO:

(A) SUPPORT FREE TRANSIT INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT THROUGH ARCHIPELAGO AS PART OF MULTILATERAL LOS TREATY REGIME;

(B) SUPPORT FREE TRANSIT OF STRAITS; AND

(C) ACTIVELY ASSIST IN EFFORTS TO BRING ALONG OTHER ARCHIPELAGO STATES, INCLUDING INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES.

3. STEWART ALSO RAISED CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND INDICATED THAT BAHAMAS BASE NEGOTIATORS COULD NOT SEPARATE OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST BETWEEN U.S. AND BAHAMAS. HE SUBSEQUENTLY WENT FURTHER AND VOLUNTEERED THAT IF DESIRED ARCHIPELAGO COVERAGE OBTAINED, HE THOUGHT BAHAMAS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND COULD ACCEPT QTE 15 OR EVEN 25 YEAR BASE AGREEMENT UNQUOTE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO TIMING STEWART INDICATED HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN ADDERLY AFTER RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MOORE IN WHICH POINTS WERE MADE THAT US WAS SERIOUSLY STUDYING BAHAMAS ARCHIPELAGO CONCERNS AND THAT ADDERLY WAS PLEASED AT POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF US AND BAHAMAS ARCHIPELAGO TEAMS. HE ALSO INDICATED ADDERLY NOW OUT OF TOWN AND STEWART HOPED HE COULD REPORT TO ADDERLY ON MONDAY, AUG 19 WHEN ADDERLY RETURNS THAT REAL PROGRESS SEEMS POSSIBLE ON ARCHIPELAGO ISSUE. AS SUCH HE PRESSED FOR A MEETING ON AUG 19 WITH US ARCHIPELAGO TEAM IN CARACAS.

5. STEWART UNDERSTANDS THAT US ARCHIPELAGO INITIATIVE DEPENDENT ON ACCEPTANCE BY PRINCIPAL ARCHIPELAGO STATES OF REASONABLY LIMITED OBJECTIVE DEFINITION OF ARCHIPELAGIC STATE, ACCEPTANCE OF HIGH SEAS TO HIGH SEAS ARCHIPELAGIC PASSAGE THROUGH SEALANES INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT, AND SUBMERGED TRANSIT AND RECIPROCAL SUPPORT FOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS. AS SUCH, ANY UNDERSTANDING ON ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT AT THIS TIME COULD NOT GO BEYOND UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING MUTUAL EFFORTS IN MULTILATERAL LOS NEGOTIATIONS.

6. ONE REASON EXPRESSED FOR A BAHAMIAN ARCHIPELAGO WAS NEED FOR CLEAR POLITICAL UNIFICATION OF BAHAMAS. SECES-
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SION TALK OF CERTAIN ISLANDS SEVERAL YEARS AGO WAS CITED IN THIS CONNECTION.

7. ANALYSIS: ACCEPTANCE OF ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT SEEMS HIGH PRIORITY BAHAMIAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE PROBABLY OVERRIDING THEIR INTEREST EVEN IN BASE NEGOTIATION. THEY ARE CLEARLY DELIBERATELY LINKING THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEIR ARCHIPELAGO INTEREST AND SEEM TO BE WILLING TO BE

FORTHCOMING IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS IF ARCHIPELAGIC COVERAGE
THEY SEEK IS MET.

BASE NEGOTIATIONS ASIDE, DELEGATION HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT IS
STRONGLY IN INTEREST LOS NEGOTIATION TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT OF
BAHAMAS TO SUPPORT US STRAITS OBJECTIVES AND NAVIGATIONAL
OBJECTIVES THROUGH ARCHIPELAGOS IN RETURN FOR US SUPPORT FOR
BAHAMIAN ARCHIPELAGO (ON CONDITION THAT INDONESIAN AGREEMENT
ALSO BE OBTAINED). BAHAMAS COULD BE HELPFUL IN MEETING INDON-
ESIAN CONCERN THAT THEY NOT BE ISOLATED AMONG LDC'S AND MIGHT
BE ABLE TO OFFER PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR US STRAITS OBJECTIVES AT
EARLIER TIME. THIS AGREEMENT COULD ALSO INCREASE PRESSURE ON
PHILIPPINES AND OFFER MORE CREDIBLE THREAT OF PHILIPPINE
ISOLATION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEL REQUESTS IMMEDIATE AUTHORITY
TO APPROACH BAHAMAS NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUG 19 TO MAKE
OFFER OF US SUPPORT FOR OUTLINE OF ARCHIPELAGO DESCRIBED
BY STEWART ON FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

(A) CONDITIONAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT DEPENDENT ON INDON-
ESIAN AGREEMENT TO "THREE CONDITIONS";

(B) SUPPORT FOR LIMITED DEFINITION OF ARCHIPELAGO STATE
(USE OF LAND-WATER RATIO NOT TO EXCEED 1 TO 10). IN THIS
CONNECTION U.S. DEL WILL INTERPRET WATERS CONTAINED WITHIN
THE REEFS OF ATOLLS AS LAND FOR THE COMPUTATION OF THE LAND/
WATER RATIO, AND WILL NEED AUTHORITY TO INCREASE MAXIMUM LENGTH
OF LINE (1-2 PERCENT EXCEPTION) TO 125 NAUTICAL MILES FROM PRESENT
120 (NOTE -- AT LATER TIME WE WOULD NEED THIS OR SLIGHTLY
MORE FOR PHILIPPINES NEGOTIATION). REQUESTED AUTHORITY
INCREASING LAND WATER RATIO FROM 1-5 TO 1-10 WOULD PICK UP
BAHAMAS AS ONLY ADDITIONAL ARCHIPELAGO WITH POSSIBLE
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EXCEPTION OF TONGA WHICH DEL HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO COMPUTE;
(C) SUPPORT FOR UNIMPEDED OR ARCHIPELAGIC TRANSIT
(INCLUDING OVERFLIGHT AND SUBMERGED TRANSIT) THROUGH ARCHIPELAGO
AS PART OF MULTILATERAL LOS TREATY REGIME; AND,
(D) SUPPORT FOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS (INCLUDING OVER-
FLIGHT AND SUBMERGED TRANSIT). DEL WOULD NOT PLAN TO MENTION
BASE NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS DEPT. INSTRUCTS THAT ISSUE BE GENERALLY
OR SPECIFICALLY LINKED.
STEVENSON

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